AMERICAN COMICS GROUP
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DARING the SUPERNATURAL
AMERICAN COMICS GROUP
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No 15-
JULY
OUT OF the NIGHT
10¢
A MOMENT AGO, I WAS A MAN---AND NOW I'M A CREATURE EVEN A CAT CAN HUNT DOWN!
It was UNBELIEVABLE---IT COULDN'T HAPPEN--- UNTIL AGE-OLD MAGIC MADE HIM A CREATURE OF HORROR! FOR A WEIRD TALE OF SUPER-NATURAL SUSPENSE, DON'T MISS---
"The LITTLE FURRY THINGS!"

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THE VAMPIRE'S VOW

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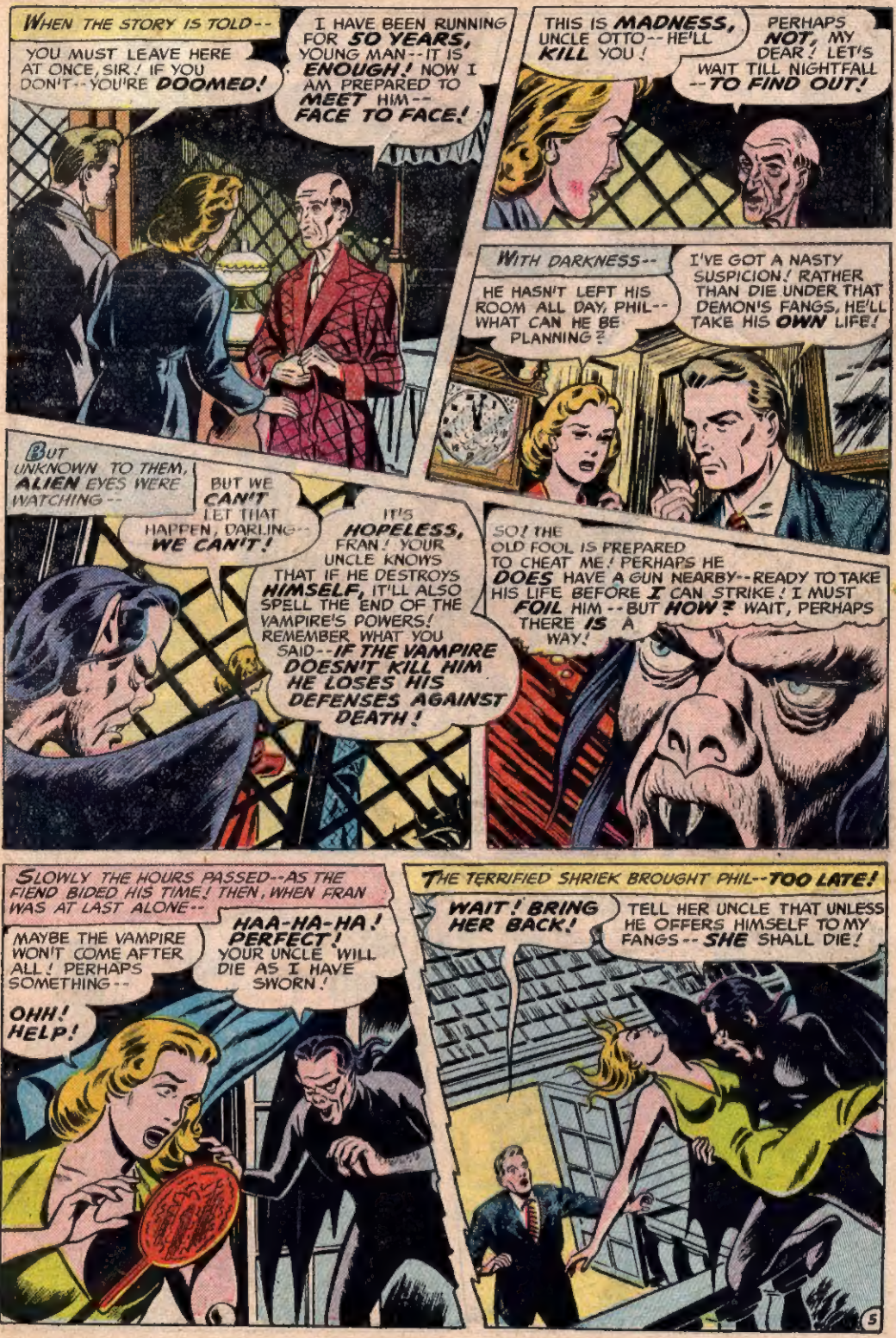
STILL HUMORING THAT STRANGE DELUSION OF HIS?
SINCE HE THINKS HE'S GOING TO DIE FROM LACK OF BLOOD-- WHY NOT PUT HIS MIND AT REST?
AS THE LONG TRIP TO VERMONT BEGAN--
YOU SAY YOUR UNCLE'S BEEN FLEEING ALL HIS LIFE! JUST WHAT DOES HE THINK IS PURSUING HIM?
A VAMPIRE!
A VAMPIRE? ARE YOU KIDDING?
MAYBE I'D BETTER TELL YOU THE STORY FROM THE BEGINNING! UNCLE OTTO WAS BORN IN A SMALL AUSTRIAN TOWN-- OF WEALTHY PARENTS! WHEN HE WAS JUST A BOY--
"A CHILDISH DARE BEGAN THE STRANGE SERIES OF EVENTS--"
THEY SAY A VAMPIRE DWELLS IN THE CASTLE, OTTO! DON'T DO IT!
YOU SAID I'D BE SCARED! WELL, I'M GOING IN!
"WITHIN THE FORBIDDING CASTLE--"
G-GOSH! IT IS SCARY IN HERE! I-I'D BETTER GO BACK!
"BUT THE TERRIFIED BOY SOON WAS LOST IN THE MAZE OF CORRIDORS! FOR HOURS, HE WANDERED-- PANIC GROWING! THEN, CLOSE TO DAWN, HE STUMBLED UPON A TERRIBLE ROOM!"
ALL THESE PEOPLE -- DEAD! I'VE GOT TO GET OUT OF HERE!
"BUT AT THAT MOMENT-- RETURNING FROM HIS GHASTLY PROWLING--"
AN INTRUDER! YOU SHALL DIE!
DON'T TOUCH ME-- DON'T!
"JUST AS THE DEMON POUNCED--"
DAWN HAS SAVED YOU, MORTAL--BUT WHEN MY POWERS RETURN AT NIGHTFALL, YOU SHALL DIE! I SWEAR IT!
2

"WHEN THE BOY STAGGERED OUT OF THE CASTLE--"
OTTO! THANK HEAVENS! WE HEARD YOU VENTURED INTO THAT AWFUL PLACE--
WHAT HAPPENED? TELL US EVERY-THING!
"LATER--"
--AND THE DEMON SAID HE WOULD COME BACK TONIGHT?
Y-YES! HE SWORE IT!
WE MUST FLEE--AT ONCE! IF HE HAS VOWED TO DESTROY OTTO --HE WILL NEVER REST TILL IT IS DONE! PACK--THERE'S NO TIME TO LOSE!
OTTO'S PARENTS LIVED AS NOMADS AFTER THAT--WITH THE VAMPIRE NEVER FAR BEHIND! YOU SEE, IT IS SAID THAT IF A VAMPIRE EVER SEIZES A VICTIM HE MUST KILL HIM--FOR IF THE VICTIM DIES NATURALLY, THEN, AT THAT MOMENT THE VAMPIRE LOSES HIS SUPERNATURAL DEFENSES AGAINST DEATH!
THE WHOLE STORY'S RIDICULOUS, FRAN! LOOK--IT'S SNOWING TOO HARD TO MAKE YOUR UNCLE'S PLACE! WE'D BETTER HOLE UP AT THIS HOTEL TILL MORNING!
ALL RIGHT, PHIL--BUT SOMETIMES I THINK THE STORY IS TRUE!
INN
INSIDE THE SMALL INN--
YOUR FINEST ROOM AT ONCE, MY GOOD MAN! I-- OHHH!
GOOD HEAVENS! CALL A DOCTOR!
WHAT THE--? THIS MAN'S DYING OF ANEMIA! QUICK, FRAN-- GET THAT PLASMA!
AS THE LIFE-GIVING SUBSTANCE PENETRATES THE STRANGER'S VEINS--
EASY, THERE! YOU'LL HAVE TO STAY IN BED SEVERAL DAYS-- AND YOU'LL NEED MORE TRANSFUSIONS!
NO! IF I AM STRONG ENOUGH TO GET ABOUT -- I HAVE NO NEED OF PLASMA! LEAVE YOUR BILL AND GO-- GO!
13

THAT MAN--THERE'S SOMETHING EVIL ABOUT HIM!
CURB THAT IMAGINATION, HONEY! WE'D BETTER GO TO OUR ROOMS--WE BOTH NEED SLEEP!
WELL PAST MIDNIGHT, AS THE ENTIRE HOTEL SLEPT--A SINISTER FIGURE STIRRED, INTENT ON A GHASTLY QUEST--
I NEED--STRENGTH! HER LIFE WILL SUPPLY IT!
H-HELP! AAEEEEE!
THE GIRL'S SHRIEK CARRIED THROUGH THE INN! PHIL, SLEEPING RESTLESSLY, ARRIVED FIRST!
GREAT SCOTT! IT'S A VAMPIRE!
AN AWFUL THOUGHT SEARED PHIL'S BRAIN AS HE RACED PAST THE TERRIFIED GUESTS TO HIS PATIENT'S ROOM--
PHIL! WHAT IS IT? WHAT HAPPENED?
I THOUGHT SO--HE'S GONE! C'MON, FRAN--WE'VE GOT TO GET TO YOUR UNCLE'S PLACE IMMEDIATELY!
PLASMA
BUT IT'S STILL SNOWING! I THOUGHT YOU SAID--
DON'T YOU UNDERSTAND? YOUR UNCLE'S STORY--IT'S TRUE! THE VAMPIRE SOMEHOW HAS FOUND OUT WHERE HE IS--AND IS ALREADY ON HIS WAY TO DESTROY HIM!
PRAY THAT WE'RE IN TIME, PHIL--WE'VE GOT TO BE!
HOURS LATER--
DON'T WORRY, HONEY! I'VE PUSHED THIS CRATE FASTER THAN ANY WINGS CAN TRAVEL! BESIDES--IT'S DAYLIGHT NOW, WHICH MEANS WE'VE GOT TIME TO GET YOUR UNCLE FAR AWAY FROM HERE BEFORE NIGHTFALL!
4


WHEN THE STORY IS TOLD--
YOU MUST LEAVE HERE AT ONCE, SIR! IF YOU DON'T--YOU'RE DOOMED!
I HAVE BEEN RUNNING FOR 50 YEARS, YOUNG MAN--IT IS ENOUGH! NOW I AM PREPARED TO MEET HIM--FACE TO FACE!
THIS IS MADNESS, UNCLE OTTO--HE'LL KILL YOU!
PERHAPS NOT, MY DEAR! LET'S WAIT TILL NIGHTFALL --TO FIND OUT!
WITH DARKNESS--
HE HASN'T LEFT HIS ROOM ALL DAY, PHIL--WHAT CAN HE BE PLANNING?
I'VE GOT A NASTY SUSPICION! RATHER THAN DIE UNDER THAT DEMON'S FANGS, HE'LL TAKE HIS OWN LIFE!
BUT UNKNOWN TO THEM, ALIEN EYES WERE WATCHING--
BUT WE CAN'T LET THAT HAPPEN, DARLING--WE CAN'T!
IT'S HOPELESS, FRAN! YOUR UNCLE KNOWS THAT IF HE DESTROYS HIMSELF, IT'LL ALSO SPELL THE END OF THE VAMPIRE'S POWERS! REMEMBER WHAT YOU SAID--IF THE VAMPIRE DOESN'T KILL HIM HE LOSES HIS DEFENSES AGAINST DEATH!
SO! THE OLD FOOL IS PREPARED TO CHEAT ME! PERHAPS HE DOES HAVE A GUN NEARBY--READY TO TAKE HIS LIFE BEFORE I CAN STRIKE! I MUST FOIL HIM--BUT HOW? WAIT, PERHAPS THERE IS A WAY!
SLOWLY THE HOURS PASSED--AS THE FIEND BIDED HIS TIME! THEN, WHEN FRAN WAS AT LAST ALONE--
MAYBE THE VAMPIRE WON'T COME AFTER ALL! PERHAPS SOMETHING--
HAA-HA-HA! PERFECT! YOUR UNCLE WILL DIE AS I HAVE SWORN!
OHH! HELP!
THE TERRIFIED SHRIEK BROUGHT PHIL--TOO LATE!
WAIT! BRING HER BACK!
TELL HER UNCLE THAT UNLESS HE OFFERS HIMSELF TO MY FANGS--SHE SHALL DIE!
5

IN A HILLSIDE CAVE THE VAMPIRE HAD CHOSEN AS A LAIR --
PLEASE, SPARE THE OLD MAN! HE WAS ONLY A CHILD WHEN THIS STARTED! HAVE YOU NO MERCY?
HE MUST DIE! I HAVE SWORN IT! IF HE TRIES TO OUTWIT ME -- YOU SHALL PAY!
AFTER FIFTY YEARS -- THE MOMENT APPROACHES! AH, MY PREY AWAITS ME --
THE DEMON HAS TRICKED ME! I HAVE NO CHOICE NOW -- I CAN'T LET FRAN DIE! I'VE GOT TO DO AS HE SAYS!
THERE'S GOT TO BE SOME WAY OUT OF THIS!
THERE IS NO ESCAPE, FOOL! AND NOW, OTTO -- YOU DIE!
YOU FIEND! I WON'T LET YOU --
CRASH!
FOOL! DARE YOU PIT MORTAL STRENGTH AGAINST MINE?
WHAM!
MERCY! I BEG YOU!
TO YOUR DEATH, OTTO -- TO YOUR DEATH!
BUT AS THE OLD MAN PULLED A CORD ON THE WALL --
NO, DEMON! TO YOUR DEATH!
WHA--!!
6

AS THE TRAP DOOR SPRANG SHUT--
HOLY SMOKE! WHAT HAPPENED?
FOLLOW ME-- BELOW!
YAAAGH!
IN A STRANGE CHAMBER BENEATH OTTO'S BEDROOM--
NO! NO! GET THEM-- AWAY FROM ME!
GREAT GUNS!
AAGH!
HA-HA! I'VE WON! I ORDERED THIS ROOM BUILT JUST BELOW MINE NOT LONG AGO--TO SNARE YOU! YOU CAN'T ESCAPE--THE GLASS IS UNBREAKABLE!
I'LL BE AVENGED FOR THIS! YOUR DEATH SHALL BE A THOUSAND TIMES WORSE!
RAVE, DEMON-- BUT YOU'RE TRAPPED! TRUE, THE SERPENTS CAN'T KILL YOU WHILE YOU RETAIN YOUR SUPERNATURAL POWERS -- BUT THEY SHALL CEASE WHEN I DIE A NATURAL DEATH! UNTIL THEN, YOU'RE A PRISONER-- AND AFTER THAT-- A CORPSE!
HOLY SMOKE-- FRAN! I'VE GOT TO FIND HER!
SHE'S NO DOUBT UP IN ONE OF THE HILL CAVES! I'LL STAY HERE--I'M ENJOYING THIS!
TWO HOURS LATER --
FRAN! THANK HEAVENS I'VE FOUND YOU!
OH, PHIL-- DOES THIS MEAN--THE VAMPIRE'S WON?
AFTER EXPLANATIONS WERE MADE --
I CAN'T SAY I'M SORRY TO BE LEAVING, UNCLE--THE VAMPIRE'S SHRIEKS WOULDN'T MAKE SLEEPING TOO EASY!
THEY'RE MUSIC TO MY EARS! DON'T FORGET TO KEEP SENDING ME PLASMA, PHIL--I'VE GOT TO KEEP HIS STRENGTH UP! HA-HA-HA!
THE END
7

The THUNDER of HOOVES!

IT WAS ONLY when anyone mentioned Apache Gulch that he felt the cold shudder creep along his spine. Otherwise Slim Johnson was an even-tempered and quick-smiling man, with many friends.

Ten years before, he and Jimmy Dakota had been pals, two easy-going cow-pokes who preferred to work as a team. They'd been so close that Slim sometimes felt awful about his side-kick's death. He sincerely wished it hadn't been necessary to murder him!

The trouble was the gold they'd found up at Apache Gulch, a hoard the Indians had buried long before in a hillside, and which had finally been exposed by heavy rains. There was enough in the rusty chest for both of them to live comfortably on for the rest of their lives, but enough for *one* man to live *richly* on. With the treasure all to himself, Slim calculated he could buy a huge ranch and marry a beauty. But it'd mean killing a likeable galoot like Jimmy Dakota!

They'd been working alone up at the Gulch, and they'd driven a fairly large herd into it for the Spring branding. It had been relatively easy to crash his pistol across Jimmy's head, and then stampede the herd across the limp body. Next day he'd grimly carried the corpse to the nearest town and told a sad tale. Since no one knew about the treasure, who could have suspected the truth?

So Slim Johnson married his beauty and bought a huge ranch, the one on which, in fact, Apache Gulch was located. And in all the time he'd owned the property he'd never ventured up to the Gulch...until now!

A year of blizzard and drought had seriously depleted the stock. It was imperative that he, the owner, supervise the Spring roundup. All the while they'd been working closer and closer to the Gulch, Slim found himself growing increasingly nervous. Now, close to midnight, with the other cowhands snoring peacefully in their blankets around the dying fire, Slim found himself intensely awake, listening to the soft lowing of the herd down in the Gulch.

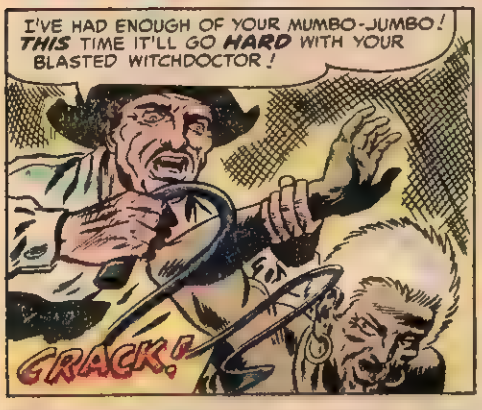
He didn't know why, but he felt an irresistible urge to revisit the exact spot on which he'd placed Jimmy Dakota's body ten years before. And when he'd reached it, a strange feeling of dread swept over him. Suddenly, in his mind's eye, he saw the thundering herd bearing down on the unconscious form of his friend; he could hear the awful clatter of thousands of hooves. Overcome with horror at the memory, Slim Johnson threw his hands over his face to drown out the sight and sound. All was quiet again.

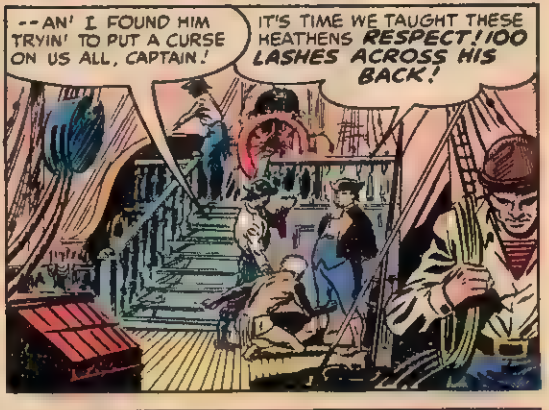
When he looked up he felt sure he was the victim of a nightmare, for only a few feet away, mounted on a spectral horse, was the figure of Jimmy Dakota, glowing in the darkness and staring intently. "I've waited a long time for you to come back here, Slim," the awful specter intoned. "The time has come *to pay you back!*"

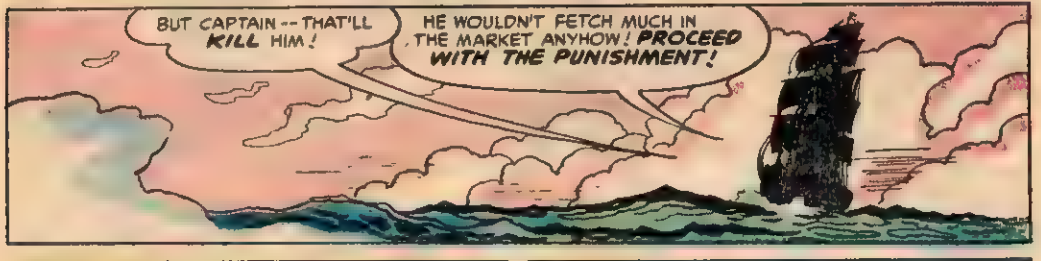
Next instant, from the ghost's transparent body, a terrific shriek burst forth. The herd, a short distance away, suddenly started in fear, and at the next shriek, stampeded...directly at Slim Johnson! He remained frozen in his tracks for an instant, but then, with the fierce instinct of self-preservation, ran desperately to avoid the thundering hooves. But he was in a gulch...a narrow ravine with sheer sides...and escape was impossible. The terrified herd rolled over him like an angry sea, and just before the thunder of hooves pulverized him he heard the triumphant laughter of Jimmy Dakota...louder than anything else!

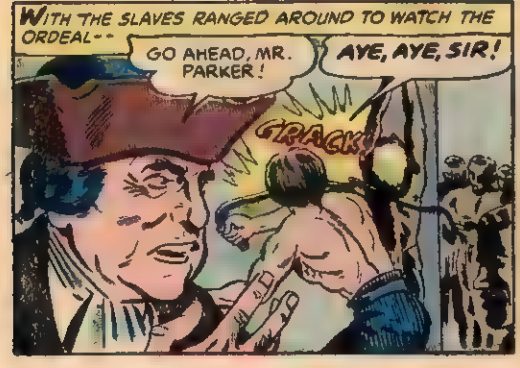
THE YELLOWING RECORDS OF AFRICAN SLAVE VESSELS ARE REPLETE WITH STRANGE AND EERIE TALES! AMONG THE MOST CHILLING IS THAT WHICH HAS COME TO BE CALLED...

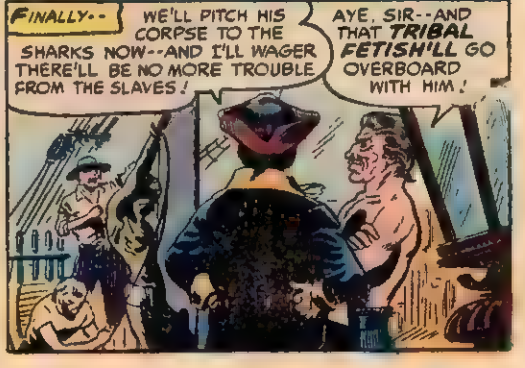
The SACRED ROPE!







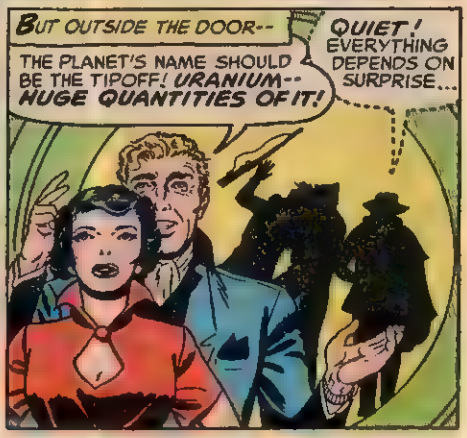


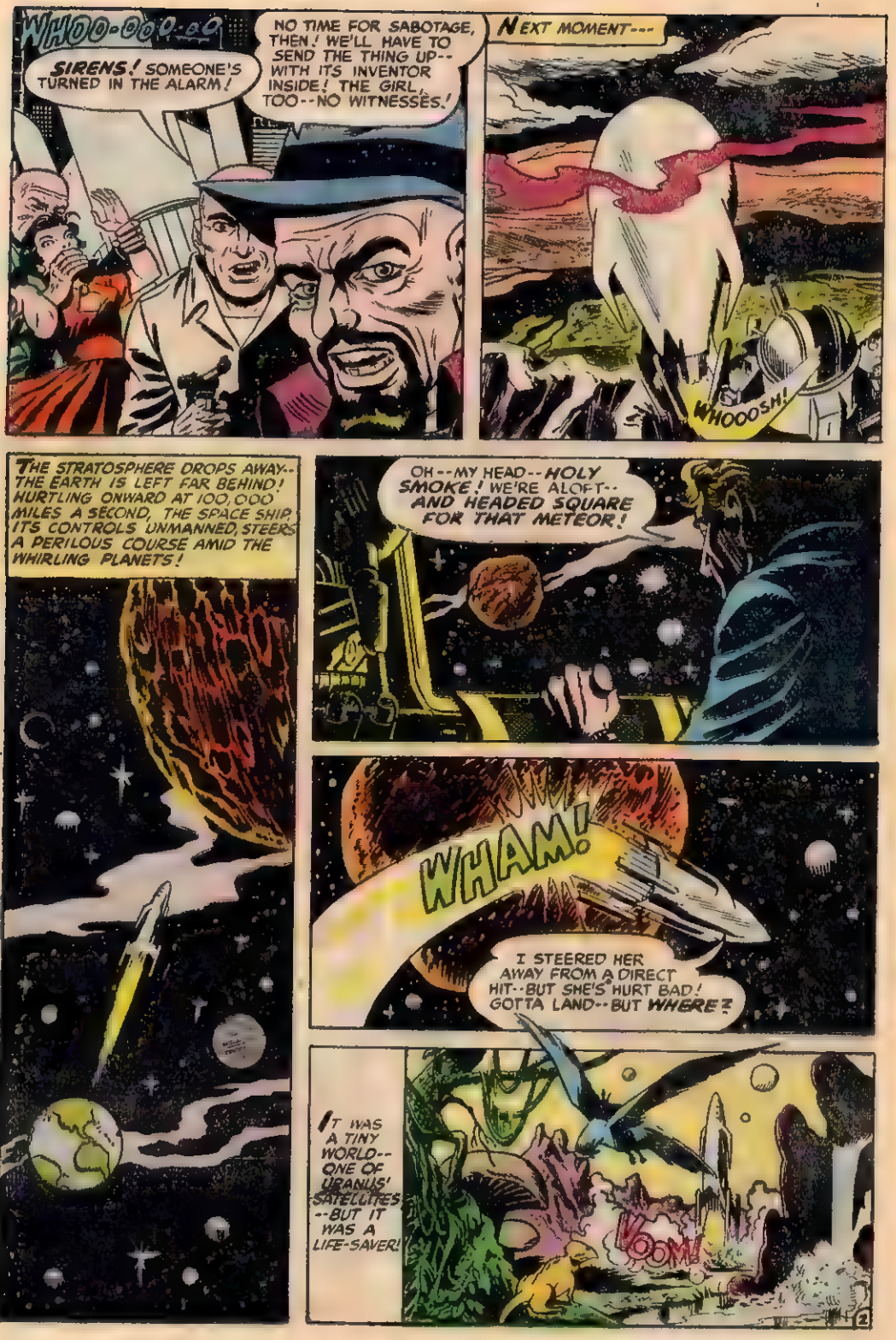


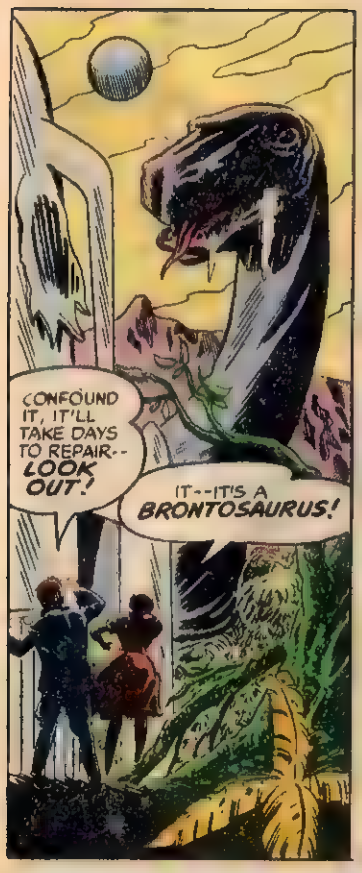
EXPLAIN YOURSELF, MR. PARKER--WHAT'S SO SPECIAL ABOUT THAT ROPE?
THEM NATIVES HOLD IT SACRED! IT'S BEEN IN THEIR TRIBE FOR CENTURIES, ALWAYS DYED IN THE BLOOD OF THE VICTIMS THEY SACRIFICE TO THEIR PYTHON GOD! SEE HOW RED IT IS?
WHEN THE BODY WAS THROWN INTO THE SEA--
THE SHARKS HAVE A GOOD APPETITE TODAY!
AYE, SIR--BUT THAT ROPE SHOULD GIVE 'EM A BELLYACHE!
SPLASH!
THE SHIP WAS QUIET THAT DAY, OMINOUSLY SO! BUT THAT NIGHT A SUDDEN NOISE WAKENED THE CAPTAIN--
W-WHO'S THERE?
YOUR DOOM!
PARALYZED WITH TERROR, THE CAPTAIN COULD ONLY GASP--
Y-YOU! BUT--
YOUR DEATH COMES NOW, CAPTAIN--SLOWLY!
THE AGONIZED SHRIEK WHICH MIGHT HAVE WAKENED THE SHIP WAS NEVER UTTERED, FOR WITH SUPERNATURAL SPEED--
NO! DON'T--AAA-GH!
FIRST, YOU! THEN YOUR MATE--
WHEN THE GREY LIGHT OF DAWN FELL OVER THE UTTER MASTS OF THE "BLACK KNIGHT"--
LOOK--UP THERE!
MERCIFUL SAINTS! TWO BODIES SWINGIN' LIMP!
MOMENTS LATER--
IT...IT'S THE CAPTAIN AND THE MATE--HANGED! BUT--WHO DID IT?
LOOK AT THIS! IT'S THAT SACRED ROPE--STAINED IN BLOOD--THE ROPE THAT WENT INTO THE DEEP WITH THE CORPSE OF THE WITCHDOCTOR!
THE END
THAT'S THE YARN, READER--HOW DO YOU EXPLAIN IT?
2

SPACE SCIENTIST

IT WAS A DESPERATE RACE THROUGH SPACE--WITH THE EARTH ITSELF AT STAKE! FOLLOW ***TOM STANDISH, SPACE SCIENTIST***, THROUGH THE FURTHEST REACHES OF THE STAR-STUDDED UNIVERSE--ALONG THE TRAIL OF THRILLING INTERPLANETARY ADVENTURE!




WHOO-OOO-OO
SIRENS! SOMEONE'S TURNED IN THE ALARM!
NO TIME FOR SABOTAGE, THEN! WE'LL HAVE TO SEND THE THING UP--WITH ITS INVENTOR INSIDE! THE GIRL, TOO--NO WITNESSES!
NEXT MOMENT---
WHOOOSH!
THE STRATOSPHERE DROPS AWAY--THE EARTH IS LEFT FAR BEHIND! HURTLING ONWARD AT 100,000 MILES A SECOND, THE SPACE SHIP, ITS CONTROLS UNMANNED, STEERS A PERILOUS COURSE AMID THE WHIRLING PLANETS!
OH--MY HEAD--HOLY SMOKE! WE'RE ALOFT--AND HEADED SQUARE FOR THAT METEOR!
WHAM!
I STEERED HER AWAY FROM A DIRECT HIT--BUT SHE'S HURT BAD! GOTTA LAND--BUT WHERE?
IT WAS A TINY WORLD--ONE OF URANUS' SATELLITES--BUT IT WAS A LIFE-SAVER!
VOOM!
2


CONFOUND IT, IT'LL TAKE DAYS TO REPAIR--LOOK OUT!
IT--IT'S A BRONTOSAURUS!

WELL, I'LL BE--! A FRIENDLY DINOSAUR!
HA-HA! HE CAN BE OUR MASCOT WHILE YOU'RE FIXING THE SHIP!
GURP

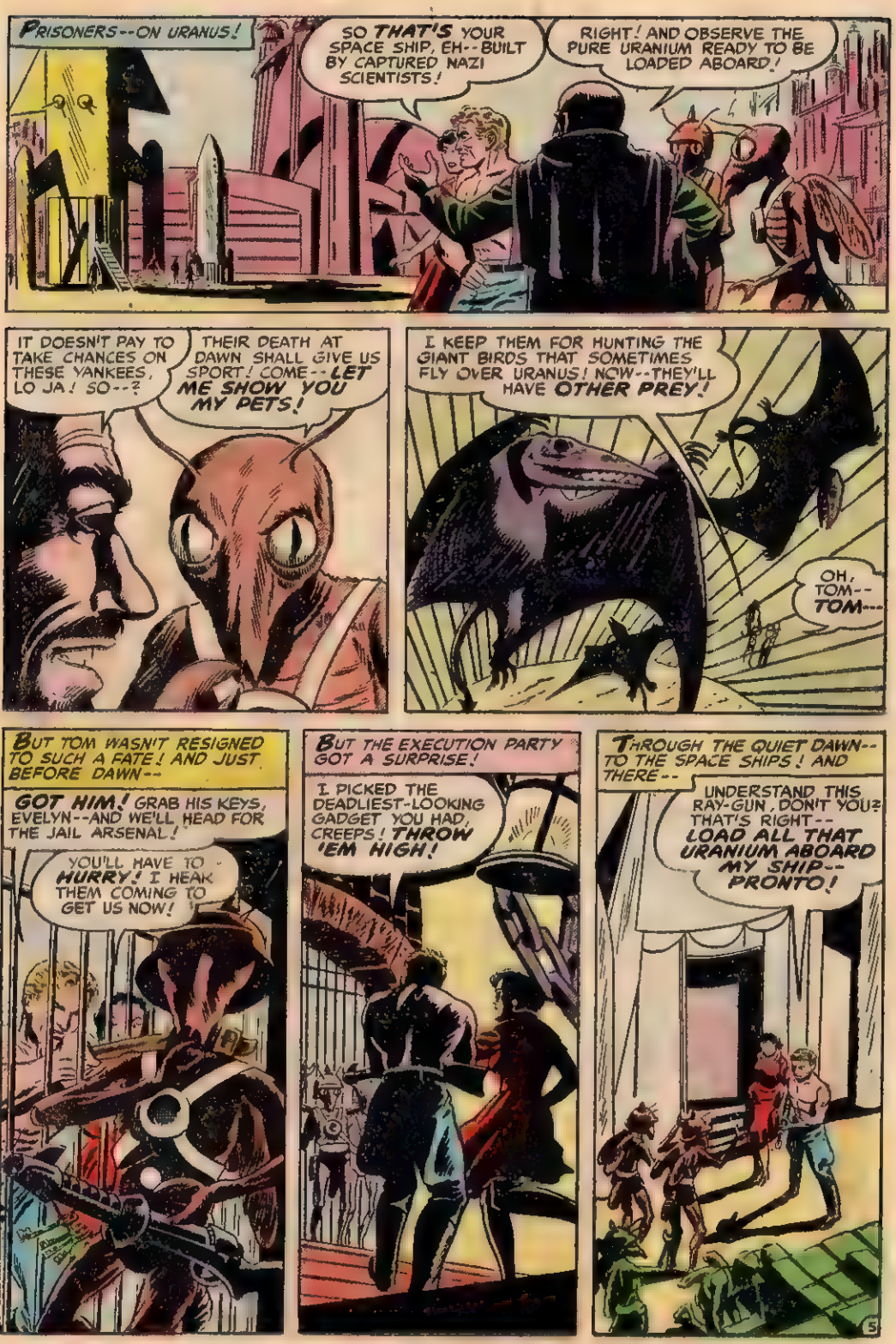
BUT THERE WERE OTHER BEASTS HERE, AND NOT SO FRIENDLY! A FEW DAYS LATER--
GARRGH!
OH, N-NO! HELP!

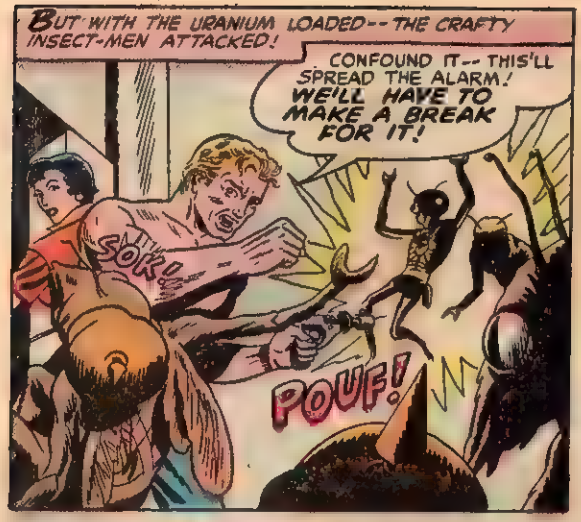
EEE-EEEE!
HOLY SMOKE! THERE'S -- NOTHING I CAN DO!

ALL SEEMED LOST--BUT HELP CAME FROM AN UNEXPECTED QUARTER!
GR-RRR!
IT--IT DROPPED YOU--JUST IN TIME--
AARGH

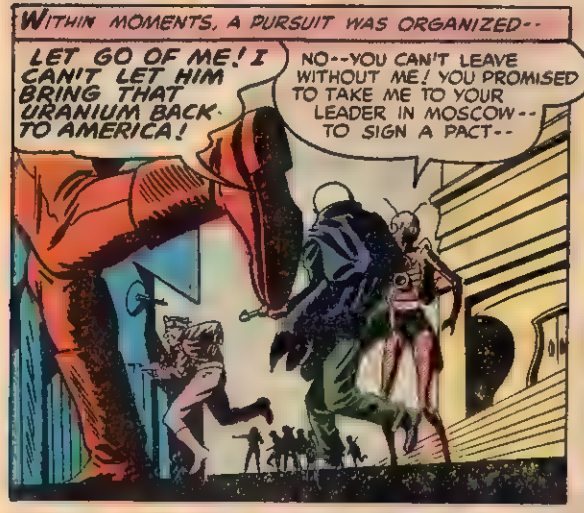
THEN--A MEETING OF GIANTS!
THE SPACE SHIP'S JUST ABOUT READY TO TAKE OFF--AND THIS MAY GIVE US TIME TO REACH IT!
ARR-ROWW!
YARGH!
3

NO BEAST COULD LONG WITHSTAND THE TYRANNO-SAURUS--AND AS THE AWFUL CREATURE PURSUED--
GARR-RR!
I--I'VE GOT TO GET IT OFF THE GROUND BEFORE THAT THING CRUSHES US LIKE AN EGG!
THEN, IN A FIERY BLAST OF DESTRUC-TION--TAKE-OFF!
WHOOSH!
EEEYOWW!
MEANWHILE, FROM THE NEARBY PLANET URANUS, ENEMY EYES SWEPT THROUGH SPACE--
THE AMERICAN SPACE SHIP! CONFOUND IT, OUR SPIES WERE ORDERED TO WRECK IT SO WE RUSSIANS WOULD BE THE ONLY ONES TO REACH HERE! WE'VE GOT TO STOP THE YANKEES, LO JA--BUT HOW?
THINK OF SOMETHING! REMEMBER, MY NATION HAS PROMISED YOU EARTH'S WESTERN HEMISPHERE FOR ENOUGH URANIUM TO GUARANTEE US WORLD CONQUEST--BUT NOW THIS YANKEE ROCKET--
WATCH, VLADIMIR!
AS LO JA MANS THE CONTROLS--
RROAR!
--A GIGANTIC FLYING MAGNET TAKES OVER--AND HOMES ON ITS TARGET!
WHAT THE---! SOMETHING'S SEIZED US, EVELYN--WE'RE HELPLESS!
4

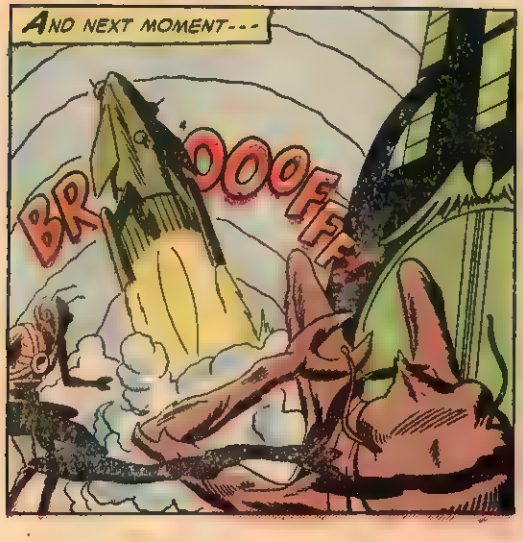

PRISONERS--ON URANUS!
SO THAT'S YOUR SPACE SHIP, EH--BUILT BY CAPTURED NAZI SCIENTISTS!
RIGHT! AND OBSERVE THE PURE URANIUM READY TO BE LOADED ABOARD!
IT DOESN'T PAY TO TAKE CHANCES ON THESE YANKEES, LO JA! SO--?
THEIR DEATH AT DAWN SHALL GIVE US SPORT! COME--LET ME SHOW YOU MY PETS!
I KEEP THEM FOR HUNTING THE GIANT BIRDS THAT SOMETIMES FLY OVER URANUS! NOW--THEY'LL HAVE OTHER PREY!
OH, TOM--TOM---
BUT TOM WASN'T RESIGNED TO SUCH A FATE! AND JUST BEFORE DAWN--
GOT HIM! GRAB HIS KEYS, EVELYN--AND WE'LL HEAD FOR THE JAIL ARSENAL!
YOU'LL HAVE TO HURRY! I HEAR THEM COMING TO GET US NOW!
BUT THE EXECUTION PARTY GOT A SURPRISE!
I PICKED THE DEADLIEST-LOOKING GADGET YOU HAD, CREEPS! THROW 'EM HIGH!
THROUGH THE QUIET DAWN--TO THE SPACE SHIPS! AND THERE--
UNDERSTAND THIS RAY-GUN, DON'T YOU? THAT'S RIGHT--LOAD ALL THAT URANIUM ABOARD MY SHIP--PRONTO!
5


BUT WITH THE URANIUM LOADED--THE CRAFTY INSECT-MEN ATTACKED!
CONFOUND IT--THIS'LL SPREAD THE ALARM! WE'LL HAVE TO MAKE A BREAK FOR IT!
SOK!
POUF!

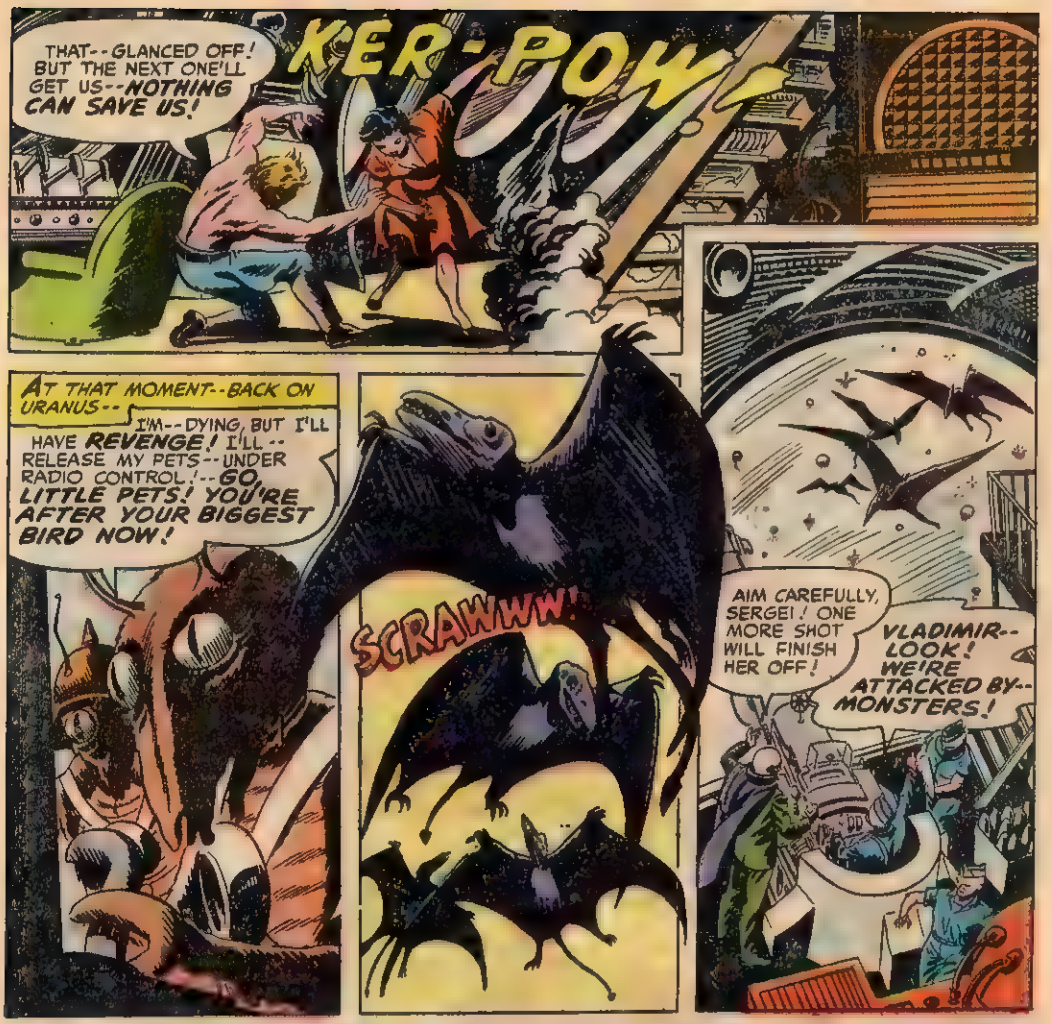
WHOOSH!


WITHIN MOMENTS, A PURSUIT WAS ORGANIZED--
LET GO OF ME! I CAN'T LET HIM BRING THAT URANIUM BACK TO AMERICA!
NO--YOU CAN'T LEAVE WITHOUT ME! YOU PROMISED TO TAKE ME TO YOUR LEADER IN MOSCOW--TO SIGN A PACT--

YOU PROMISED--- YAGH!
ALL RIGHT! HERE'S WHAT YOU'D HAVE GOTTEN FROM US ANYWAY!
BAM!


AND NEXT MOMENT---
BR
OOOFF

BAM!
BAM!
BAM!
HOLY HANNAH! THAT RED CRATE'S OVERHAULED US--AND WE'RE UNARMED! THEY'LL BLAST US OUT OF THE SKY!


THAT--GLANCED OFF! BUT THE NEXT ONE'LL GET US--NOTHING CAN SAVE US!
KER-POW!
AT THAT MOMENT--BACK ON URANUS--
I'M--DYING, BUT I'LL HAVE REVENGE! I'LL--RELEASE MY PETS--UNDER RADIO CONTROL!--GO, LITTLE PETS! YOU'RE AFTER YOUR BIGGEST BIRD NOW!
SCRAWWW!
AIM CAREFULLY, SERGE! ONE MORE SHOT WILL FINISH HER OFF!
VLADIMIR--LOOK! WE'RE ATTACKED BY--MONSTERS!
AND IN THE SKIES OVER URANUS--A DEADLY DRAMA DREW TO A CLOSE!
AI-EEEEE!
CR-RUNCH!
OH, TOM, IT WAS--AWFUL! TO BE KILLED THAT WAY--IN SPACE!--
IT WAS A DOOM THEY'D EARNED! AND DON'T FORGET, HONEY--IT GAVE US THE URANIUM THAT WILL SAVE THE WORLD FOR DEMOCRACY!
FOLLOW THIS MAGAZINE FOR OTHER-WORLDLY THRILLS YOU'LL NEVER FORGET!
THE END

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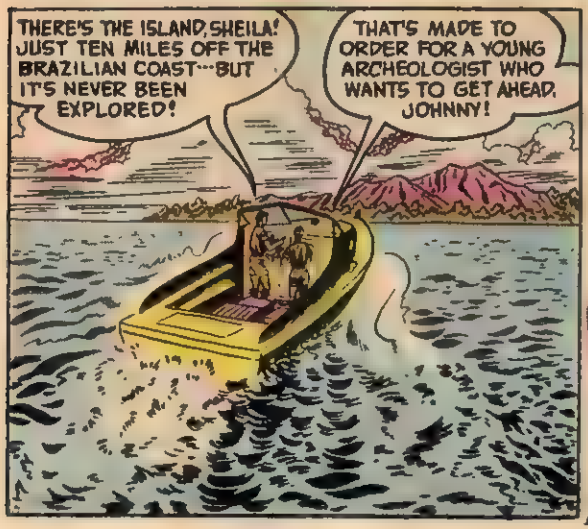
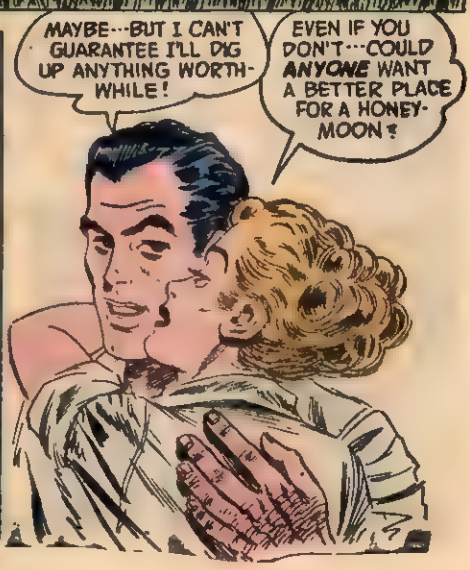
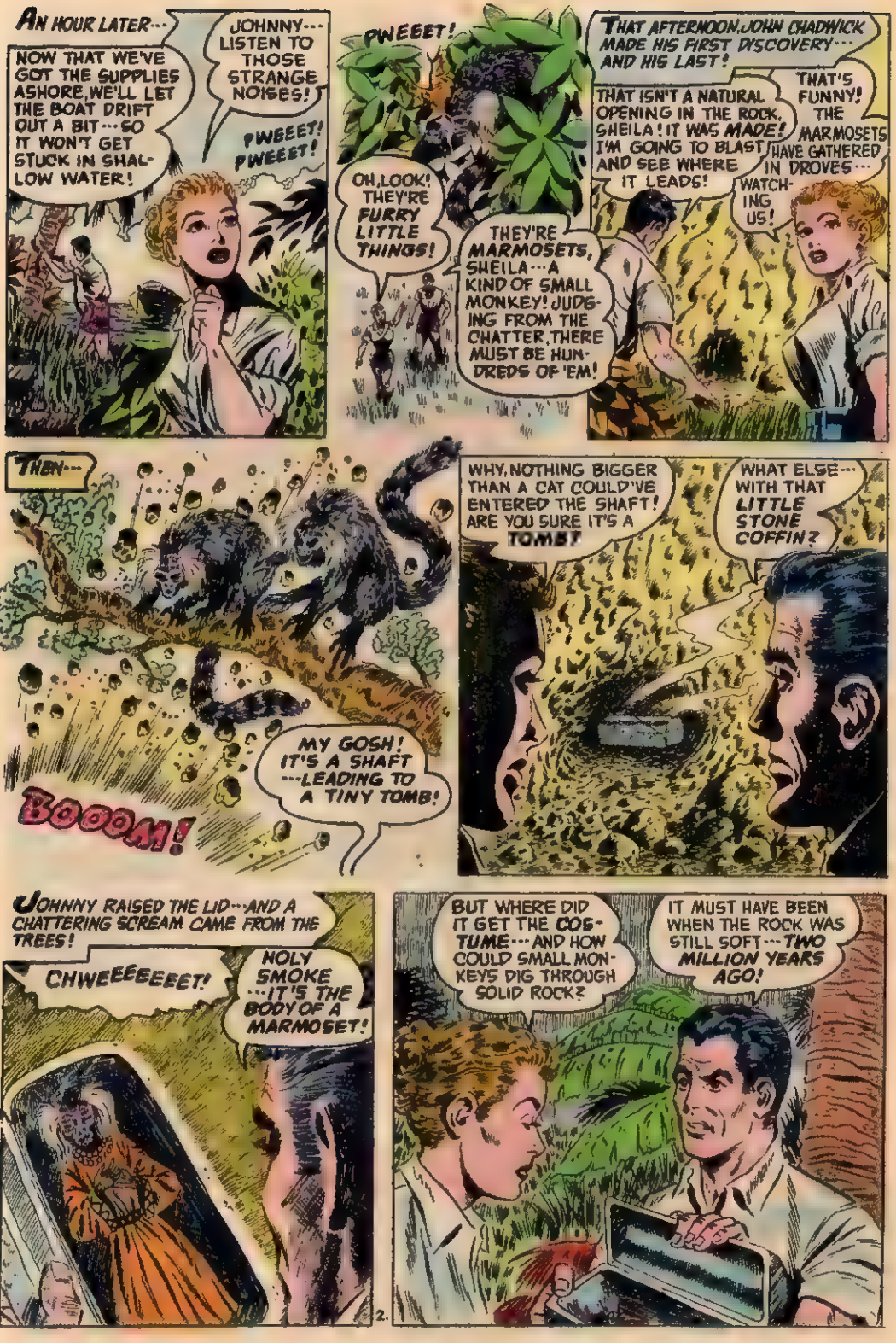
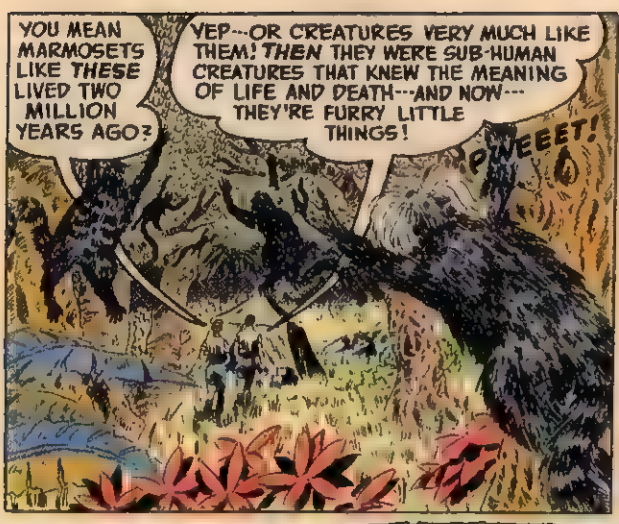
LONG BEFORE MAN APPEARED ON THE EARTH···LONG BEFORE EVEN THE DINOSAURS BELLOWED FROM THE SWAMPS··· THERE WAS ANOTHER WORLD RULED BY MARAMA-SETTA! AND ITS HORROR CAN STILL BE SEEN···IN THE WATCHING EYES AND TINY PAWS OF···

The LITTLE furry THINGS!

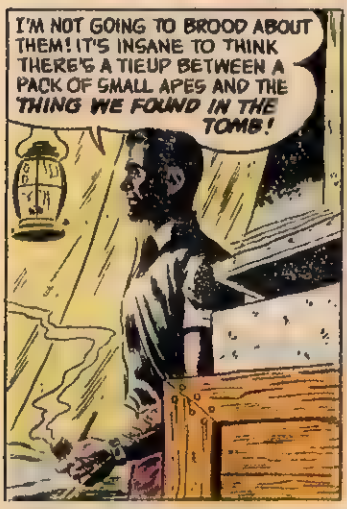





AN HOUR LATER···
NOW THAT WE'VE GOT THE SUPPLIES ASHORE, WE'LL LET THE BOAT DRIFT OUT A BIT···SO IT WON'T GET STUCK IN SHALLOW WATER!
JOHNNY··· LISTEN TO THOSE STRANGE NOISES!
PWEEET! PWEEET!
PWEEET!
OH, LOOK! THEY'RE FURRY LITTLE THINGS!
THEY'RE MARMOSETS, SHEILA···A KIND OF SMALL MONKEY! JUDGING FROM THE CHATTER, THERE MUST BE HUNDREDS OF 'EM!
THAT AFTERNOON, JOHN CHADWICK MADE HIS FIRST DISCOVERY··· AND HIS LAST!
THAT ISN'T A NATURAL OPENING IN THE ROCK, SHEILA! IT WAS MADE! I'M GOING TO BLAST AND SEE WHERE IT LEADS!
THAT'S FUNNY! THE MARMOSETS HAVE GATHERED IN DROVES··· WATCHING US!
THEN···
BOOOM!
MY GOSH! IT'S A SHAFT ···LEADING TO A TINY TOMB!
WHY, NOTHING BIGGER THAN A CAT COULD'VE ENTERED THE SHAFT! ARE YOU SURE IT'S A TOMB?
WHAT ELSE··· WITH THAT LITTLE STONE COFFIN?
JOHNNY RAISED THE LID···AND A CHATTERING SCREAM CAME FROM THE TREES!
CHWEEEEEEET!
HOLY SMOKE ···IT'S THE BODY OF A MARMOSET!
BUT WHERE DID IT GET THE COSTUME··· AND HOW COULD SMALL MONKEYS DIG THROUGH SOLID ROCK?
IT MUST HAVE BEEN WHEN THE ROCK WAS STILL SOFT···TWO MILLION YEARS AGO!

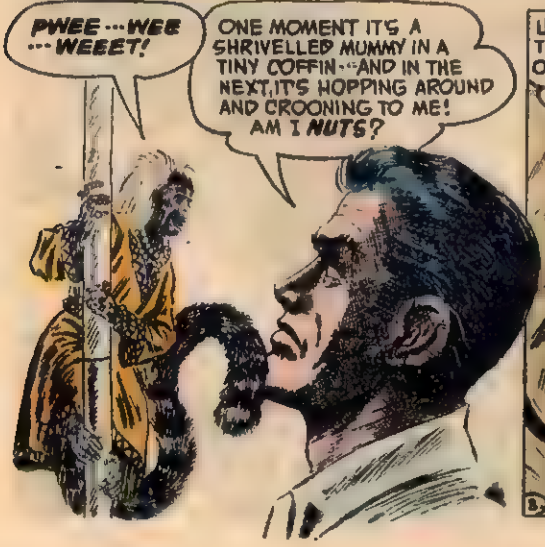

YOU MEAN MARMOSETS LIKE THESE LIVED TWO MILLION YEARS AGO?
YEP---OR CREATURES VERY MUCH LIKE THEM! THEN THEY WERE SUB-HUMAN CREATURES THAT KNEW THE MEANING OF LIFE AND DEATH---AND NOW--- THEY'RE FURRY LITTLE THINGS!
PWEEET!

IT HAPPENED AFTER SUNDOWN---THE PATTER OF TINY FEET RUSTLING THROUGH THE JUNGLE!
WONDER WHAT'S UP? THE MARMOSETS ARE OBVIOUSLY EXCITED--- AND GOING SOMEWHERE!


I'M NOT GOING TO BROOD ABOUT THEM! IT'S INSANE TO THINK THERE'S A TIEUP BETWEEN A PACK OF SMALL APES AND THE THING WE FOUND IN THE TOMB!

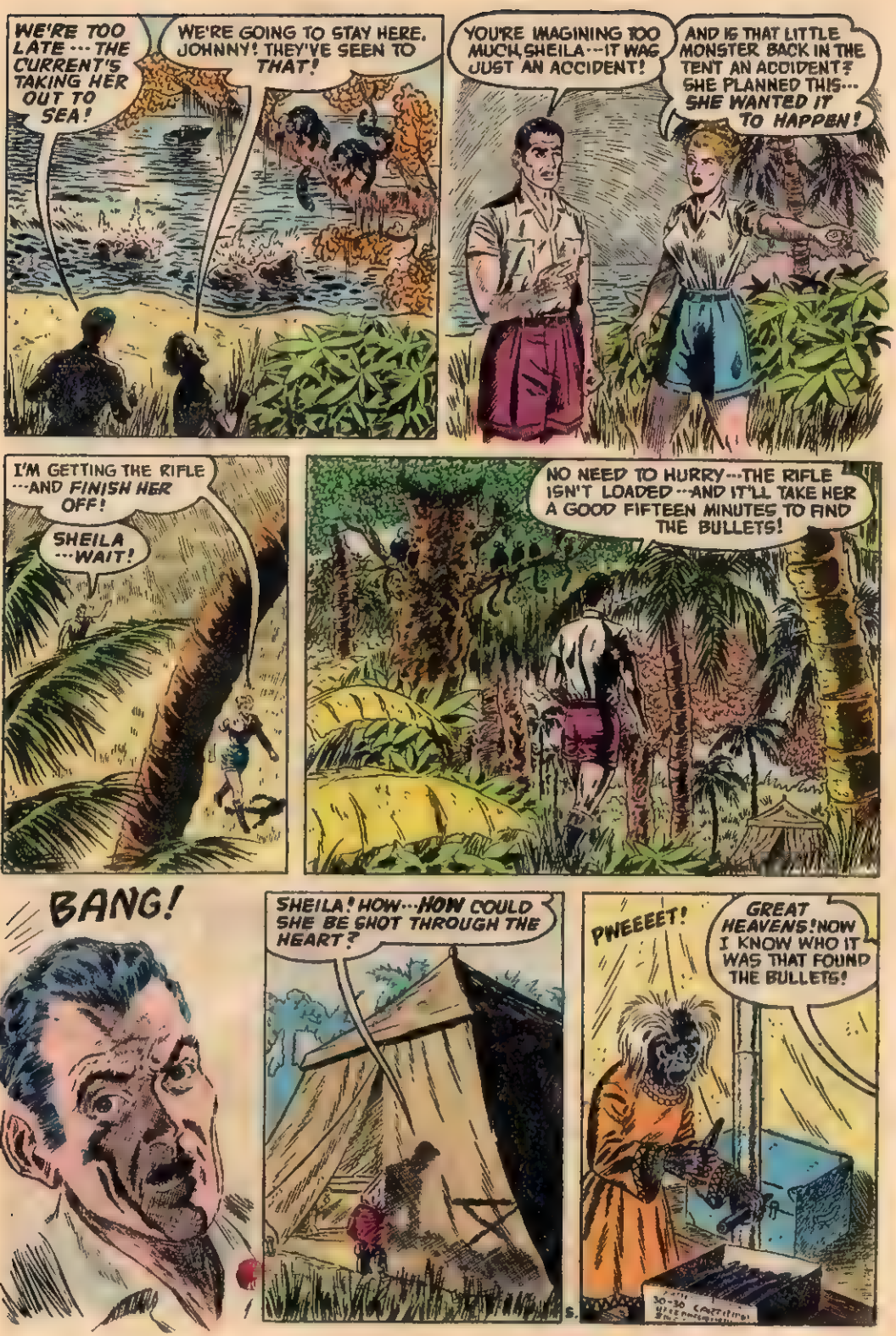
THEN---SOMETHING SOFT LANDED ON JOHN CHADWICK'S SHOULDERS!
PWEEEET!

WHAT THE---!


PWEE---WEE ---WEEET!
ONE MOMENT IT'S A SHRIVELLED MUMMY IN A TINY COFFIN---AND IN THE NEXT, IT'S HOPPING AROUND AND CROONING TO ME! AM I NUTS?

UNLESS---OF COURSE THAT'S IT---THERE'S ONLY ONE POSSIBLE EXPLANATION!

CHWEEEEBT!
OHH!
IT'S COME TO LIFE! JOHNNY ···GET RID OF THAT HORRIBLE LITTLE THING!
CALM DOWN, HONEY! ONE OF THE MARMOSETS MUST HAVE STOLEN THE MUMMY WHEN I WASN'T LOOKING···AND RIGGED ITSELF OUT IN THE COSTUME!
CH-CH-CHWEEET!
GOOD HEAVENS!
STRANGE···THE LITTLE THING LIKES ME!
IT'S WORSE THAN STRANGE, JOHNNY··· BECAUSE IT HATES ME!
IT GIVES ME THE CREEPS···JUMPING AROUND IN THAT OUTLANDISH COSTUME! WHY DOESN'T IT JOIN THE OTHER MARMOSETS?
THAT REMINDS ME···WONDER WHERE THEY WENT?
THERE THEY ARE! HUNDREDS OF THEM···GATHERED ON THE BEACH!
IS THAT THE MOORING ROPE THEY'RE SWINGING ON? ARE THEY JUST SWINGING, OR···NO! NO!
CHWEEET!
PWEEET!
THEY'VE UNTIED THE ROPE! THE BOAT'S GOING ADRIFT!


WE'RE TOO LATE ··· THE CURRENT'S TAKING HER OUT TO SEA!
WE'RE GOING TO STAY HERE, JOHNNY! THEY'VE SEEN TO THAT!
YOU'RE IMAGINING TOO MUCH, SHEILA ···IT WAS JUST AN ACCIDENT!
AND IS THAT LITTLE MONSTER BACK IN THE TENT AN ACCIDENT? SHE PLANNED THIS··· SHE WANTED IT TO HAPPEN!
I'M GETTING THE RIFLE ···AND FINISH HER OFF!
SHEILA ···WAIT!
NO NEED TO HURRY···THE RIFLE ISN'T LOADED ···AND IT'LL TAKE HER A GOOD FIFTEEN MINUTES TO FIND THE BULLETS!
BANG!
SHEILA! HOW···HOW COULD SHE BE SHOT THROUGH THE HEART?
PWEEEET!
GREAT HEAVENS! NOW I KNOW WHO IT WAS THAT FOUND THE BULLETS!

YOU CHATTERING DEMON··· YOU KILLED HER! GET OUT ···GET OUT!
IN THE MOONLIGHT···JOHN CHADWICK DUG A GRAVE···
SHEILA, DARLING···WHY DID IT HAPPEN? WHAT EVIL FORCE COULD HAVE WILLED IT?
AND IN THE MOONLIGHT···THE LITTLE FURRY THINGS WATCHED FROM THE TREETOPS!
CHWEEET! CHWEET!
CHUCKLING··· BECAUSE SHE'S DEAD! I'M WARNING YOU, KEEP AWAY FROM HER···AND KEEP AWAY FROM ME!
THAT NIGHT, JOHNNY HAD A STRANGE DREAM! HE SAW THE MARMOSETS MOVING THROUGH THE JUNGLE LIKE PHANTOMS···
BUT THE MARMOSETS HAD CHANGED···THEY WERE AGAIN THE WEIRD BEINGS THAT PEOPLED THE EARTH MILLIONS OF YEARS AGO!
THEIR DIM BRAINS AND TINY HANDS HAD FASHIONED AN IDOL···AND IN CHIRPING TONES···THEY SPOKE!
MARAMA-SETTA IS DEAD!
BRING MARAMA-SETTA BACK TO LIFE···AND WE WILL GIVE YOU A SACRIFICE!
WE WILL GIVE YOU ONE OF THE THINGS THAT SOME DAY WILL RULE THE EARTH···A HUMAN!
AAAAGH!

JOHNNY HAD AWAKENED··· BUT THE NIGHTMARE WAS JUST BEGINNING!
NO WONDER I HAD WILD DREAMS··· WITH THOSE LITTLE FIENDS GATHERED AROUND THE TENT! I WARNED THEM··· NOW THEY'RE GOING TO DIE!
WHAT'S HAPPENED TO THE RIFLE? IT'S HEAVY··· I CAN HARDLY BUDGE IT!
GOOD HEAVENS···WHAT AM I CHANGING INTO? IT CAN'T BE···IT CAN'T BE!
BUT MORE AND MORE EVERY SECOND···IT WAS! HE SCUTTLED OUT OF THE TENT···HIS VOICE PIPING OFF TO A SHRILLING WAIL!
PLEASE···NO···NO! PLEASE ···PWEASE···PWEEEEEET!
HE HEARD HER CALL, AND IN THAT LAST FLASH OF HUMAN MEMORY HE KNEW HER NAME···MARAMA-SETTA!
PWEE··· WEEET!
NOW THEY WERE TOGETHER···TWO FURRY LITTLE THINGS!
PWEEEET! PWEET PWEET!
7
THE TENT ROTTED AWAY AFTER THE FIRST SEASON'S RAINS! AND OVERHEAD, THE MARMOSETS FROLICKED IN THE TREETOPS···OVER THE SPOT THAT MARKED A GRAVE!
THE END!

OUT of the NIGHT to YOU!

EVERY ONCE IN a while we like to devote one of these get-togethers to thanking all of you loyal readers who have written to us. Your letters go far in establishing the editorial policy of "Out Of The Night". Without your helpful comments and suggestions, our job would be vastly more difficult.

But it isn't possible to please each and every reader completely. For example, a few months ago we got an angry letter from a fan complaining that the current issue of "Out Of The Night" contained only one werewolf story. He insisted that henceforth we'd have to include *two*, because that type of yarn was his favorite!

Well, we try to satisfy our readers, but when a magazine has a following of several hundred thousand people you can be sure that some are going to feel slighted. Some fans want a preponderance of vampire stories, others call for ghost tales, still others for zombie yarns, and so forth.

Our policy is to *explore the supernatural*, wherever it may lead, and that forbids our slavishly following any set formula. Our researchers are constantly screening the vast amount of material which pours into our offices monthly. The most authentic reports of supernatural manifestations, the most imaginative creative efforts, only these find their way into "Out Of The Night".

Consider our present issue. "The Vampire's Vow" is a masterpiece of suspenseful plot structure, guaranteed to keep you spellbound till its smashing climax. "Space Scientist" is an adventure into the outer reaches of the universe, and a rendezvous with worlds past and future. There's no way to describe the terror-laden perfection of "The Little Furry Things!" As for "Howard's Vengeance", get set for eerie action as a ghost strikes for revenge.

Let us know what you think of these stories, won't you? Just write to The Editor, "Out Of The Night", 45 West 45th Street, New York 36, N. Y. Now, let's dip into our mailbag:

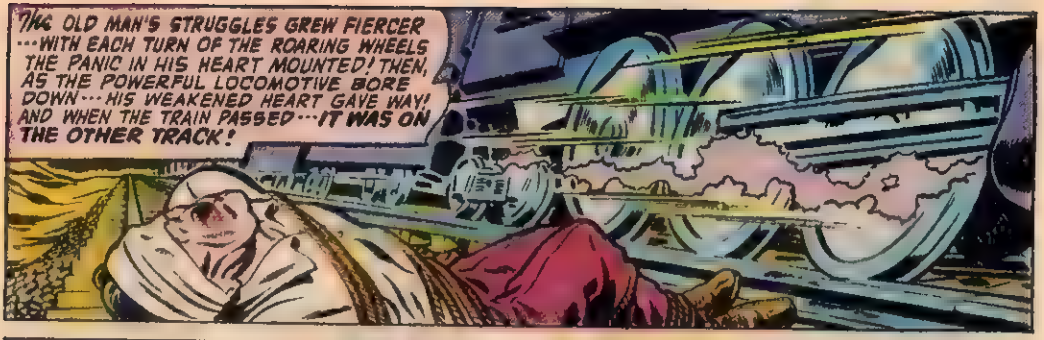
"Dear Editor:-
I've just finished reading an issue of 'Out Of The Night' and I think it's great. Let's have more stories like 'The Haunted House' and 'Death Has Wings'.
--David Paul Seibert, Chester, Pa."

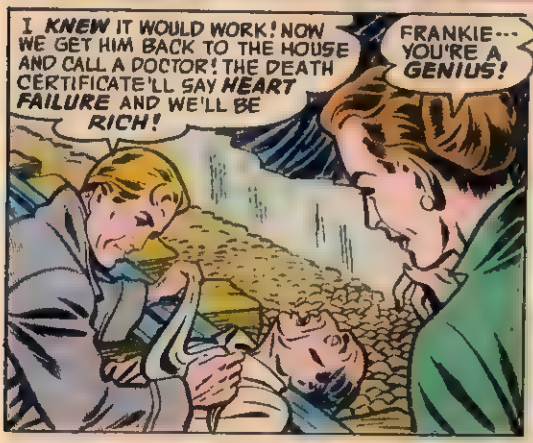
"Dear Editor:-
I have been reading 'Out Of The Night' for quite a while. I thought 'The Amazing Ray' and 'Process of Elimination' were best in the March issue. Of all the supernaturals on the stands, I like 'Out Of The Night' best!
--Florence Ridner, Morristown, N. J."

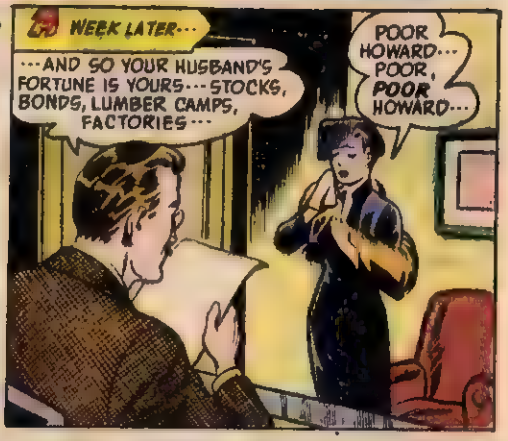
"Dear Editor:-
I always read your comic book 'Out Of The Night' with interest. The stories are very thrilling and exciting.
--M. Schell, Canandaigua, N. Y."

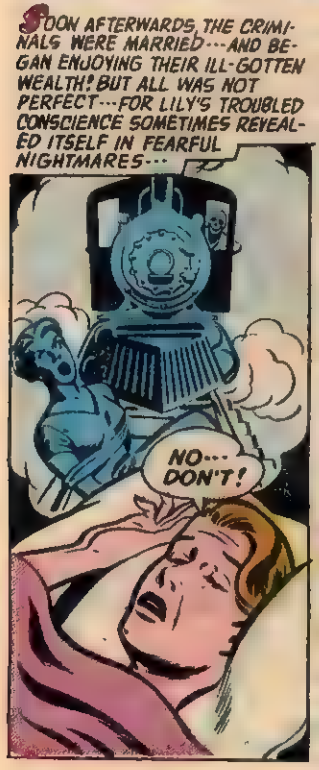
Howards VENGEANCE
THEY HAD ENGINEERED A PERFECT CRIME! WEALTH WAS THEIRS··· AND THE PROMISE OF A LONG AND HAPPY LIFE! THE LAWS OF MAN COULD NOT TOUCH THEM ···BUT THEY HAD YET TO DEAL WITH THE GRIM FORCES OF SUPER-NATURAL JUSTICE!
I'M SICK OF MEETING IN THESE JOINTS, LILY! YOU SAID WHEN YOU MARRIED HIM THAT HE'D BE DEAD WITHIN A YEAR···AND HIS DOUGH'D BE OURS! WELL, HE'S GETTIN' HEALTHIER ALL THE TIME! I'VE BEEN THINKIN'···WHY DON'T WE DO SOMETHIN'···HELP HIM ALONG!
YOU CRAZY? HOWARD MAY BE OLD AND HAVE A VERY WEAK HEART··· BUT IF HE DIDN'T DIE FROM NATURAL CAUSES, HIS BATTERY OF DOCTORS WOULD FIND OUT FOR SURE···AND WE'D WIND UP AS BEAUTIFUL CORPSES!
YEAH? WELL, I'VE BEEN THINKIN' ABOUT THAT, TOO···AND I'VE GOT A FOOLPROOF IDEA! LISTEN···ALL WE GOTTA DO IS WAIT FOR THE FIRST NIGHT ALL THE SERVANTS ARE AWAY···

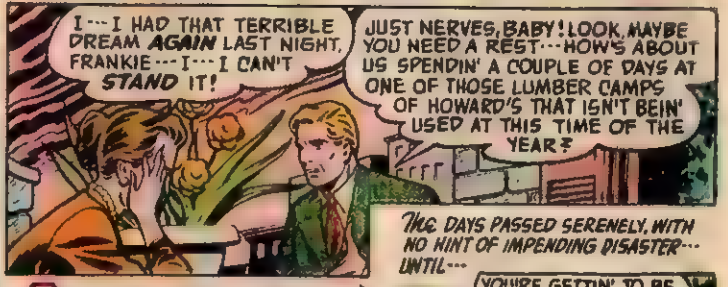
IT WAS A DEVILISH PLAN···AND SOON AFTERWARDS···
WELL, MY DEAR··· THE DOCTORS SAID TODAY THAT IF I TOOK CARE OF MYSELF I MIGHT LIVE ANOTHER TWENTY YEARS! YOU'VE BEEN A TONIC FOR ME···A BLESSING!
THANK YOU, HOWARD ···YOU'RE SUCH A DEAR! HERE'S YOUR GLASS OF SHERRY··· REMEMBER, SIP SLOWLY!
STRANGE··· I FEEL SO DROWSY··· SLEEPY···
FRANKIE··· QUICK! THE DRUG'S WORKING!
GOOD··· THAT CLOSET WAS GETTIN' KINDA STUFFY! OKAY, HONEY··· LET'S GET ROLLIN' BEFORE HE COMES TO!
EVERYTHING MOVED LIKE CLOCKWORK! IN THE CAR, AS THE OLD MAN REGAINED HIS SENSES···
WH-WHAT'S THE MEANING OF THIS? LILY··· WHAT··· WHAT ARE YOU DOING?
YOU'LL FIND OUT, GRANDPA! OKAY, LILY··· STOP THE CAR!
WE GOTTA WORK FAST, BABY··· THE TRAIN'LL BE ALONG ANY MINUTE!
T-TRAIN? NO··· DON'T ···PLEASE!
WE'LL MAKE IT EASY ON YOU, OLD TIMER··· NO SENSE YOUR SEEIN' THAT LOCOMOTIVE! C'MON, LILY··· HERE SHE COMES!
WHOOO!
HE'S STRUGGLING LIKE CRAZY··· JUST AS I FIGURED!
I'VE GOT TO HAND IT TO YOU, FRANKIE··· YOU'RE SMART! HE'LL BE DEAD BEFORE THAT TRAIN PASSES!

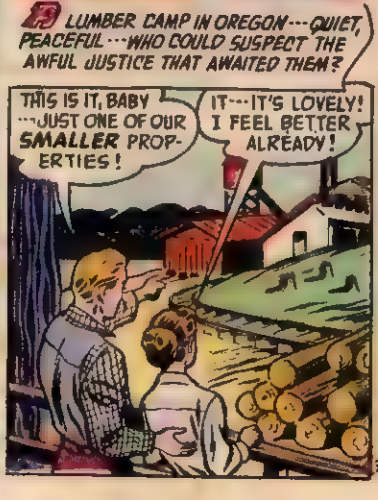

THE OLD MAN'S STRUGGLES GREW FIERCER ···WITH EACH TURN OF THE ROARING WHEELS THE PANIC IN HIS HEART MOUNTED! THEN, AS THE POWERFUL LOCOMOTIVE BORE DOWN··· HIS WEAKENED HEART GAVE WAY! AND WHEN THE TRAIN PASSED···IT WAS ON THE OTHER TRACK!


I KNEW IT WOULD WORK! NOW WE GET HIM BACK TO THE HOUSE AND CALL A DOCTOR! THE DEATH CERTIFICATE'LL SAY HEART FAILURE AND WE'LL BE RICH!
FRANKIE··· YOU'RE A GENIUS!


A WEEK LATER···
···AND SO YOUR HUSBAND'S FORTUNE IS YOURS···STOCKS, BONDS, LUMBER CAMPS, FACTORIES···
POOR HOWARD··· POOR, POOR HOWARD···


SOON AFTERWARDS, THE CRIMINALS WERE MARRIED···AND BEGAN ENJOYING THEIR ILL-GOTTEN WEALTH! BUT ALL WAS NOT PERFECT···FOR LILY'S TROUBLED CONSCIENCE SOMETIMES REVEALED ITSELF IN FEARFUL NIGHTMARES···
NO··· DON'T!


I···I HAD THAT TERRIBLE DREAM AGAIN LAST NIGHT, FRANKIE···I···I CAN'T STAND IT!
JUST NERVES, BABY! LOOK, MAYBE YOU NEED A REST···HOW'S ABOUT US SPENDIN' A COUPLE OF DAYS AT ONE OF THOSE LUMBER CAMPS OF HOWARD'S THAT ISN'T BEIN' USED AT THIS TIME OF THE YEAR?


A LUMBER CAMP IN OREGON···QUIET, PEACEFUL···WHO COULD SUSPECT THE AWFUL JUSTICE THAT AWAITED THEM?
THIS IS IT, BABY ···JUST ONE OF OUR SMALLER PROPERTIES!
IT···IT'S LOVELY! I FEEL BETTER ALREADY!

THE DAYS PASSED SERENELY, WITH NO HINT OF IMPENDING DISASTER··· UNTIL···
YOU'RE GETTIN' TO BE YOUR OLD SELF NOW, LILY! WE'RE JUST ABOUT READY TO HEAD BACK TO THE CITY AND START ENJOYIN' THAT DOUGH!
YES, FRANKIE, I FEEL ···OW-WW!

I···I STEPPED IN A HOLE! MY ANKLE'S SWELLING···I CAN'T WALK!
I'LL CARRY YOU BACK TO THE HOUSE AND CALL A DOCTOR···IT'S NOTHIN' SERIOUS!
YOU BETTER REST A WHILE···IT'S STILL ABOUT THREE MILES BACK!
WAIT···THAT RAILWAY TUNNEL··· IT'LL CUT THE DISTANCE IN HALF! IT'S ONLY USED WHEN THE LUMBER CAMP'S IN OPERATION··· SO IT'S SAFE!
INSIDE THE MILE-LONG TUNNEL···
I···I'M SCARED IN HERE! IT REMINDS ME OF···FRANKIE! I···I HEAR A TRAIN COMING!
DON'T LOSE YOUR GRIP, KID! I TOLD YOU THAT···
YE GODS! IT··· IT IS A TRAIN!
QUICK! WE'VE GOT TO GO BACK!
CHUG! CHUG!
FRANKIE! DON'T LEAVE ME! I CAN'T WALK! COME BACK!
I'D NEVER MAKE IT CARRYIN' YOU! I GOT NO CHOICE!
H-HOWARD! NO···DON'T! MERCY!
MERCY? HAA-HA-HA!
ONE SHORT AGONIZED SHRIEK··· AND LILY HAD PAID THE SUPREME PENALTY FOR HER CRIME! NOW, AS FRANKIE DASHED FRANTICALLY TOWARD THE END OF THE LONG TUNNEL···
THAT TRAIN···MUST'VE BUSTED LOOSE FROM ITS SIDING! GOOD GOSH···I'LL NEVER MAKE IT!
POLICE CALLED THE TWIN DEATHS AN ACCIDENT···CAUSED BY AN UNMANNED RUNAWAY TRAIN! BUT PERHAPS THEY WOULD HAVE THOUGHT DIFFERENTLY···HAD THEY HEARD THE GHOSTLY LAUGHTER WHICH ECHOED THROUGH THE DARK TUNNEL TILL THE BODIES WERE FOUND!

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John Hohlstein
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Fill your spare tire with SAFE-T-GARD. By the way, SAFE-T-GARD will make spares obsolete. Now put the tire on any wheel and drive your car 25 miles. You have just puncture proofed your tire. Prove it by driving a spike into the tire. You won't lose one cubic inch of air! Amazing, but SAFE-T-GARD has been laboratory and road tested.

Now, any salesman will recognize the tremendous value of a demonstration like this. You'll prove to car owners, fleet, truck and cab operators, that SAFE-T-GARD works with one of the most dramatic sales demonstrations possible! Every owner will leap at this PROVEN opportunity to puncture proof his tires for as little as $1.98 each.

NATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS WRITE ABOUT SAFE-T-GARD

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(Educational Division)
El Paso, Texas
Gentlemen:
I put 15,000 miles on my car in four months. I feel SAFE-T-GARD is not only the best but much the cheapest method of puncture proofing tires.

Yours truly,
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District Manager

YELLOW CAB CO.
Lincoln 8, Nebraska
Gentlemen:
We just finished a very busy week-end with a big football crowd in the city, and no flats. Not one driver lost a minute because of a flat. Ordinarily we would have had at least fifteen.

Respectfully yours,
Yellow Cab Co.
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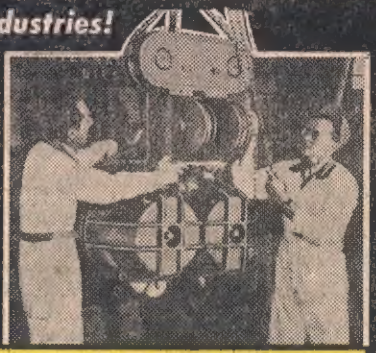

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